

## FIRE DESTROYS INN APARTMENT; DAMAGES HEAVY

Amache's first major fire that had the local fire department in "dithers" occurred Monday afternoon about 3:30 o'clock at the Sugi Morimoto residence, 11E-68. The Morimotos were absent at the time

the blaze was discovered. The alarm was sent to the fire department about 3:40 p.m. by a neighbor who saw the flames through the front windows. Both fire trucks answered the call under assistant Fire Chief

Jerry Sullivan's direction and the blaze was brought under control after much difficulty due to heavy smoke.

Considerable loss was suffered by Morimoto and his family with all their household goods and clothing burned and subsequently damaged by water. Apartment was ruined beyond repair and must undergo complete rebuilding before it can be tenanted again. But actual estimation of damages was not released by Fire Chief Vern Campbell.

Origin of the fire was not known but it was believed to have been caused by short circuit, according to the center fire authorities.

### MOERS SELECTED PERSONNEL OFFICER

"I consider it a distinct privilege and pleasure to be part of the wonderful work that is being done here at Amache," states Walter Nicholas Moers, newly appointed personnel officer who arrived on this project New Year's day.

Moers will handle the —continued on page 3—

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## AIRCRAFT PLANT OFFERS SKILLED JOBS TO NISEI

Nisei interested in airplane assembly work are given the long-awaited war plant clearance from the Internal Security Division of the 6th Service Command to place themselves at the Tuttle and Kift Inc., according to word received here from the Chicago WRA office. This concern manufactures air craft assemblies, PT boat galleys, and electrical control and switch equipment.

Out of approximately 350 employees there are about 20 nisei on the payroll who are operating drill and punch presses, power brakes, riveting, welding, and heat treating. General working conditions are said to be satisfactory since the turnover among nisei workers has been at a minimum, and employee relationship is rated as excellent.

This plant operates on 24-hour basis of three shifts and the wages range from 60 cents to \$1 an hour depending on employee's background and aptitude. And the night workers will re-

ceive ten per cent above day-shift rates. Automatic departmental bonus plan increases monthly income on percentage basis, which becomes effective after two weeks of employment.

Only citizens are eligible to apply and all applications should be forwarded to Elmer L. Shirrell, relocation supervisor, 266 West Jackson blvd., Chicago 6, Ill. Further information may be gained at the center employment office.

## 150 LEAVE CLEARANCE CASES LEFT; 400 FINISHED TO DATE

Approximately 400 evacuee hearings have been processed so far and there are about 150 cases left on the docket at present, stated Walter J. Knodel, placement officer, Monday. Six persons have been denied clearance but supplementary hearings may change the status of several.

If possible the process will be speeded up to about 60 hearings a week with two three-men board meeting

twice a week and handling about 15 cases at each sitting, disclosed Knodel.

Average time consumed at each hearing is estimated at 20 minutes and takes anywhere from two weeks to several months before the final decision is received here from the leave clearance section of the Washington WRA office. There are three steps to the process:

1. Cause for the hearing.
2. Hearing before the project board.
3. Final decision from Washington.

In case the person cited for hearing is out on a leave there is an added step of having the nearest relocation officer take his testimony.

Any evacuee denied clearance may ask for a re-hearing if the project board is assured that he has new "evidence" to add to his original testimony.

## 103 DECEMBER INDEFINITES BOOST 1943 TOTAL TO 1532

With 103 indefinite leaves issued for the month of December the grand net total for 1943 reached 1532 persons relocated to normal life on the outside, according to information released Monday by Mario Vecchio, ass't placement officer.

Seasonal leaves for December hit the year's low

of seven placements due to travel restrictions and low-ebb of seasonal works during winter months. Total placements for the year was 1488 with August, September and October as the peak months. There were 756 seasonal placements during the month of October, which incidentally was the highest for the year.